

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK**

Roman Hierro, Plaintiff, -v- Caticho Inc., d/b/a II Corallo Trattoria, and Stephanie Markowitz, Defendants.	Civ. Action #: <u>Complaint</u> Jury Trial Demanded
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Plaintiff Roman Hierro ("Plaintiff" or "Hierro"), by Abdul Hassan Law Group, PLLC, his attorney, complaining of the Defendants Caticho Inc., d/b/a II Corallo Trattoria and Stephanie Markowitz (collectively "Defendants"), respectfully alleges as follows:

NATURE OF THE ACTION

1. Plaintiff was employed by Defendants, individually and/or jointly, and pursuant to the Fair Labor Standards Act ("FLSA"), 29 U.S.C. §§ 216 (b), that he is: (i) entitled to unpaid overtime wages from Defendants for working more than forty hours in a week and not being paid an overtime rate of at least 1.5 times his regular rate for such hours over forty in a week, and (ii) entitled to maximum liquidated damages and attorneys' fees pursuant to the Fair Labor Standards Act, 29 U.S.C. §§ 201 et seq. including 29 U.S.C. §§ 216(b).

2. Plaintiff further complains pursuant to the New York Labor Law, that he is: (i) entitled to unpaid wages from Defendants for working more than forty hours in a week and not being paid an overtime rate of at least 1.5 times his regular rate for such hours over forty in a week; (ii) entitled to an extra hour of pay for each day he worked a spread of hours of more than ten (10) hours entitled to liquidated damages and (iii) attorneys' fees, pursuant to the New York Minimum Wage Act ("NYMWA"), N.Y. Lab. Law §§ 650 et seq., and the regulations thereunder including 12 NYCRR § 142-2.2.

3. Plaintiff is also entitled to recover their unpaid wages and unlawful wage deductions, under

Article 6 of the New York Labor Law including Section 191, 193, and compensation for not receiving notices and statements required by NYLL 195, under Article 6 of the New York Labor Law, maximum liquidated damages on all wages paid later than weekly, and attorneys' fees pursuant to Section 198 of the New York Labor Law.

JURISDICTION AND VENUE

4. This Court has subject matter jurisdiction pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 1331 and 1337 and supplemental jurisdiction over Plaintiff's state law claim pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1337. In addition, the Court has jurisdiction over Plaintiff's claim under the Fair Labor Standards Act pursuant to 29 U.S.C. § 216 (b).
5. Venue is proper in the Southern District of New York pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1331(b).
6. This Court is empowered to issue a declaratory judgment pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 2201 2202.

THE PARTIES

7. Plaintiff Roman Hierro ("Plaintiff" or "Hierro"), is an adult over eighteen years old, who currently resides in Bronx County, New York.
8. Upon information and belief and all times relevant herein, Caticho Inc. ("Caticho"), was a New York for-profit corporation.
9. Upon information and belief and at all times relevant herein, the corporate Defendant was owned/controlled/managed by Defendant Stephanie Markowitz ("Markowitz"), who was in charge of the operations and management of Defendant Caticho.
10. Upon information and belief and at all times relevant herein, the corporate Defendant Caticho was owned/controlled/managed by Defendant Markowitz and was her alter ego, and it was Defendant Markowitz who controlled the employment of Plaintiff and was responsible for hiring, firing, scheduling, controlling, managing, supervising, and record-

keeping as to Plaintiff's employment, among other employment functions.

11. Upon information and belief, Defendants Caticho and Markowitz shared a place of business at 176 Prince Street, New York, NY 10012, where plaintiff was employed.
12. At all times relevant herein, Plaintiff was employed individually and/or jointly by Defendants.

STATEMENT OF FACTS

13. Upon information and belief, and at all relevant times herein, Defendants were engaged in the food and restaurant business. See <https://www.ilcorallotrattoria.com/>
14. Upon information and belief and at all times relevant herein, Defendants employed about 20 or more employees.
15. At all times relevant herein, Plaintiff was employed by Defendants from in or around April 2014 to on or about July 15, 2017.
16. Upon information and belief, and at all times relevant herein, Plaintiff was individually and/or jointly employed as a dishwasher.
17. At all times relevant herein, Plaintiff was paid at an hourly rate of about \$10.35-\$11 an hour for all hours worked including his overtime hours (hours over 40 in a week).
18. At all times relevant herein, Plaintiff worked 57 or more hours a week for Defendants and likely more; 5 days a week and was paid at his straight regular rate for his overtime hours worked- a more precise statement of the hours of wages will be made when Plaintiff obtain the wage and time records defendants were required to keep under the FLSA and NYLL.
19. At all times relevant herein, Defendants, individually and/or jointly paid Plaintiff the same rate for overtime hours (hours over 40 a week) that they paid for non-overtime hours and did not pay Plaintiff for all overtime hours worked.

20. At all relevant times herein and for the time Plaintiff was employed by Defendants, Plaintiff worked more than forty (40) hours each week, during his employment with Defendants.
21. At all times relevant herein and for the time Plaintiff was employed by Defendants, Defendants failed and willfully failed to pay Plaintiff an overtime rate of at least 1.5 times his regular rate of pay for all hours worked in excess of forty hours in a week.
22. At all times relevant herein, Plaintiff worked a spread of hours of more than 10 hours a day for each and all days during his employment with Defendants – Plaintiff worked 11-12 hours each day.
23. At all times relevant herein, neither Defendant provided Plaintiff with the notice(s) required by NYLL 195(1).
24. At all times relevant herein, from in or around April 2014 until in or around early July 2017, neither Defendant provided Plaintiff with the statement(s) required by NYLL 195(3) – Plaintiff did not receive a wage statement for each and all weeks during his employment with Defendants, nor did Plaintiff's wage statements contain all wages earned, hours worked, all rates of pay including his spread of hours rate of pay, among other deficiencies.
25. Upon information and belief, and at all times relevant herein, Defendants, individually and/or jointly, had revenues and/or transacted business in an amount exceeding \$500,000 annually.
26. Upon information and belief and at all times relevant herein, Defendants used and purchased restaurant materials and supplies from vendors in and outside the State of New York.
27. At all times applicable herein, Defendants conducted business with vendors and other businesses outside the State of New York.

28. At all times applicable herein and upon information and belief, Defendants conducted business outside the State of New York involving restaurant materials and services.
29. Defendants as a regular part of its business, makes payment of taxes and other monies to agencies and entities outside the State of New York.
30. Defendants as a regular part of its business, engaged in credit card transactions involving banks and other institutions outside the state of New York.
31. At all times applicable herein and upon information and belief, defendants transacted business with insurance companies, banks and similar lending institutions outside the State of New York.
32. At all times applicable herein and upon information and belief, Defendants utilized the instrumentalities of interstate commerce such as the United States mail, electronic mail and telephone systems.
33. Upon information and belief, and at all relevant times herein, Defendants failed to display federal and state overtime wage posters.
34. Upon information and belief, and at all relevant times herein, Defendants failed to notify Plaintiff of his federal and state minimum wage and overtime rights and failed to inform plaintiff that he could seek enforcement of such rights through the government enforcement agencies.
35. Plaintiff's termination is under review and investigation and may be asserted later in this action or in a separate action.
36. "Plaintiff" as used in this complaint refers to the named Plaintiff.
37. The "present" or the "present time" as used in this complaint refers to the date this complaint was signed.

AS AND FOR A FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION

FAIR LABOR STANDARDS ACT - 29 U.S.C 201 et Seq. (Unpaid Overtime)

38. Plaintiff alleges and incorporates by reference the allegations in paragraphs 1 through 37 above as if set forth fully and at length herein.
39. At all times relevant to this action, Plaintiff was employed by Defendants, individually and/or jointly, within the meaning of the FLSA – 29 USC 201 et Seq.
40. At all times relevant to this action, Plaintiff was engaged in commerce and/or in the production of goods for commerce and/or Defendants, individually and/or jointly, constituted an enterprise(s) engaged in commerce within the meaning of 29 U.S.C. § 207.
41. At all times relevant herein, Defendants, individually and/or jointly, transacted commerce and business in excess of \$500,000.00 annually or had revenues in excess of \$500,000.00 annually.
42. At all times relevant herein, Defendants, individually and/or jointly, failed and willfully failed to pay Plaintiff overtime compensation at rates of at least 1.5 times his regular rate of pay for each hour worked in excess of forty hours in a work week, in violation of 29 U.S.C. § 207.

Relief Demanded

43. Due to Defendants' FLSA violations, Plaintiff is entitled to recover from Defendants individually and/or jointly, his unpaid overtime wage compensation, maximum liquidated damages, attorney's fees, and costs of the action, pursuant to 29 U.S.C. § 216(b).

AS AND FOR A SECOND CAUSE OF ACTION

NYLL 650 et Seq. and 12 NYCRR 142-2.2 etc. (Unpaid Overtime)

44. Plaintiff alleges, and incorporates by reference the allegations in paragraphs 1 through 42 above as if set forth fully and at length herein.

45. At all times relevant to this action, Plaintiff was employed by Defendants, individually and/or jointly, within the meaning of the New York Labor Law, §§ 2 and 651 and the regulations and wage orders thereunder including 12 NYCRR § 142-2.2, 12 NYCRR § 146-1.4.

46. At all times relevant herein, Defendants, individually and/or jointly, failed and willfully failed to pay Plaintiff overtime compensation at rates not less than 1.5 times his regular rate of pay for each hour worked in excess of forty hours in a work week, in violation of the New York Minimum Wage Act and its implementing regulations and wage orders. N.Y. Lab. Law §§ 650 et seq., including 12 NYCRR § 142-2.2, 12 NYCRR § 146-1.4.

47. At all times relevant herein, Plaintiff worked a spread of hours of more than ten (10) hours each day during the period he was employed by Defendants but defendants failed to pay Plaintiff an additional hour of pay for each such day in violation of the New York Minimum Wage Act, New York Labor law § 650 et seq., including 12 NYCRR § 142-2.4, 12 NYCRR § 146-1.6.

Relief Demanded

48. Due to Defendants' New York Labor Law violations, Plaintiff is entitled to recover from Defendants, his unpaid overtime and spread of hours compensation, prejudgment interest, maximum liquidated damages, reasonable attorneys' fees, and costs of the action, pursuant to N.Y. Labor L. § 663(1) and the regulations thereunder.

AS AND FOR A THIRD CAUSE OF ACTION

NYLL § 190, 191, 193, 195 and 198

49. Plaintiff alleges, and incorporates each and every allegation contained in paragraphs 1 through 48 above with the same force and effect as if fully set forth at length herein.
50. At all times relevant to this action, Plaintiff was employed by Defendants, individually and/or jointly, within the meaning of the New York Labor law, §§ 190 et seq., including §§ 191, 193, 195 and 198 and the applicable regulations thereunder.
51. Defendants, individually and/or jointly, violated and willfully violated NYLL §§ 190 et seq., including §§ 191, 193 and 198, by failing to pay Plaintiff all his unpaid non-overtime wages, overtime wages, and spread of hours wages, as required by NYLL §§ 191, 193 and 198.
52. At all times relevant herein, Defendants, individually and/or jointly, failed and willfully failed to provide Plaintiff with the notice(s) required by NYLL 195(1) – Plaintiff is therefore entitled to and seeks to recover in this action the maximum recovery for this violation, plus attorneys' fees and costs pursuant to NYLL 198 including NYLL 198(1-b), as well as an injunction directing Defendants to comply with NYLL 195(1).
53. At all times relevant herein, Defendants, individually and/or jointly, failed and willfully failed to provide Plaintiff with the statement(s) required by NYLL 195(3) – Plaintiff is therefore entitled to and seeks to recover in this action the maximum recovery for this violation, plus attorneys' fees and costs pursuant to NYLL 198 including NYLL 198(1-d), as well as an injunction directing Defendants to comply with NYLL 195(1).

Relief Demanded

54. Due to Defendants' New York Labor Law Article 6 violations including violation of sections 191, 193 and 198, Plaintiff is entitled to recover from Defendants, individually and/or jointly, his entire unpaid wages, including his unpaid non-overtime and overtime wages, spread of hours wages, maximum liquidated damages, prejudgment interest, maximum recovery for violations of NYLL 195(1) and NYLL 195(3), reasonable attorneys' fees, and costs of the action, pursuant to N.Y. Labor Law § 190 et seq. including § 198.

PRAYER FOR RELIEF

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff respectfully requests that this Court grant the following relief:

55. Declare Defendants, individually and/or jointly, to be in violation of the Plaintiff's rights under the Fair Labor Standards Act, Article 6 of the New York Labor Law, the New York Minimum Wage Act, and the Regulations thereunder;
56. As to the **First Cause of Action**, award Plaintiff his unpaid overtime wages due under the FLSA, together with maximum liquidated damages, costs and attorney's fees pursuant to 29 USC § 216(b);
57. As to his **Second Cause of Action**, award Plaintiff his unpaid overtime and spread of hours wages due under the New York Minimum Wage Act and the Regulations thereunder including 12 NYCRR §§ 142-2.2, 12 NYCRR § 142-2.4, 12 NYCRR § 146-1.4, 12 NYCRR § 146-1.6, together with maximum liquidated damages, prejudgment interest, costs and attorney's fees pursuant to NYLL § 663;
58. As to his **Third Cause of Action**, award Plaintiff all outstanding wages, including his unpaid non-overtime wages, overtime wages, spread of hours wages, plus maximum liquidated damages, maximum recovery for violations of NYLL 195(1) and NYLL 195(3), reasonable attorneys' fees, and costs of the action, pursuant to N.Y. Labor Law § 190 et seq. including § 198, and issue an injunction directing Defendants to comply with NYLL 195(1) and NYLL 195(3).
59. Award Plaintiff prejudgement interest on all monies due;
60. Award Plaintiff any relief requested or stated in the preceding paragraphs but which has not been requested in the WHEREFORE clause, in addition to the relief requested in the wherefore clause;
61. Award Plaintiff such other, further and different relief as the Court deems just and proper.

Dated: Queens Village, New York

July 27, 2017

Respectfully submitted,

Abdul Hassan Law Group, PLLC

/s/ Abdul Hassan
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